DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 198 553 CS 206 134

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TITLE Teaching Multicultural Awareness and Understanding through the Language Arts--Creative Writing: Suggested Topics for Creative and Expository Writing Based on the Roots of the Cuban Culture for Use with Cuban Children and Others Who are Interested in Understanding Their Culture.
PUB DATE [80]
NOTE 18p.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Biculturalism; Classroom Techniques; *Creative Writing; *Cubans; *Cultural Awareness; Cultural Background; Elementary Education; *Expository Writing; Foreign Countries; Language Arts; Multicultural Education; Spanish Speaking; *Writing Exercises; Writing Instruction
IDENTIFIERS *Cuba

ABSTRACT

Intended to help teachers in developing language arts curriculum materials for use with recent Cuban refugees to the United States, this paper contains 300 topics for creative and expository writing based on the roots of the Cuban culture. The topics cover a variety of subjects, including food preparation, memories of Cuba, experiences in a new country, Cuban contributions to American culture, Cuban artists, and political differences between Cuba and the United States. (FL)

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TEACHING MULTICULTURAL AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

THROUGH THE

LANGUAGE ARTS_____CREATIVE WRITING

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR CREATIVE
AND
EXPOSITORY WRITING BASED ON THE ROOTS
OF THE

CUBAN CULTURE

FOR USE WITH CUBAN CHILDREN AND OTHERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN UNDERSTANDING THEIR CULTURE

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LET'S GIVE THEM ALL A CHANCE

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With the influx of more than one hundred fourteen thousand Cuban Refugees (adults and children) to this country, during the 1980 Flotilla, the schools in the Greater Miami /Dade County Areas have been filled to capacity. Here you can see many,many bright intellectually, but sad, emotionally children, who have come with their parents, fleeing their homeland in search of a new and more prosperous life.

They have brought with them, as pilgrims of the past who helped to build this country, many fears and anxieties of their future in this strange land, among children and adults who speak and live in ways different from the manner in which they have been accustomed to.For them, they find that they are now among classmates who know little or nothing about their Culture, nor do they know much about the American Culture.

Regardless of these differences, which are minute, in comparison to the similarites that exist between them and their new countrymen, the process of acceptance, understanding, and involvement in the communities in which they will live, must become a reality, if these children are to fulfill the dreams for which they have come. Yes, in"America, The Land Of The Free, And The Home Of The Brave", we can not let them down. As Thomas Wolf reminds us that:

> "To every man his chance: To every man regardless of his birth, his shining, golden opportunity. To every man the right to live, to work, to be himself, and to become whatever thing his manhood and his vision can combine to make him."

There is no place more appropriate for these students to begin to express and share their feeling with their new friends and teachers than through creative writing, an integral part of the Language Arts Curriculum. Yes, let's give them a chance.

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR CREATIVE AND EXPOSITORY WRITING

1. I Remember Cuba Because ___
2. When I First Saw The United States Of America
3. Why Key West, Florida Is"My Ellis Island"
4. There Is Nothing In The Cuban History That Is Similar To Flotillas Of The Spring Of 1980-To The United States
5. My Fist Day In Miami
6. The Excitement Of My Flight From Cuba
7. Beyond The Blue Waters, Between Cuba And The Coast Of Florida
8. Please Visit My Island, If You Can
9. Learning To Speak English Was Very Difficult For Me
10. Cuban Currancy And Its Value On The World Market
11. The Cuban Fishermen Who Risked Their Lives For Our Relatives
12. Cuban Dances Of Happiness And Sadness
13. I Will Teach You The Cuban Dances
14. There Is A Strong Relationship Between The Cuban And The African Heritage: Significant Influence
15. There Is A Strong Relationship Between The Cuban And The Indian Heritage: Significant Influence
16. How To Make Pināta
17. Games That We Played In Cuba
18. Cuban Stories That Were Told To Me When I Was Yonung
19. Cuban Songs Of My Childhood
20. We Live In "Little Havana", Because It Reminds Us Of Cuba, In Many Ways

21. How To Make A Cuban Sandwich
22. How My Mother Makes Cuban Coffee
23. My Family Was United After Twenty Five Years
24. My Family Returned To Florida, From The Northern States, Because------
25. Josē Marti, Our Apostle and Patriot
26. Crossing The Bay By Boat To Visit The "Mom Fortress"
27. A Stroll Along "El Malecon"
28. Cutting Cane At The Sugarmill
29. A Visit To "El valle de Viñales:
30. A Visit To Havana, The Capitol of Cuba
31. I Will Never Forget Castro
32. Taking A Walk Along "El Paseo de el Prado"
33. Exploring "Las cuevas de Bellamar:
34. A Visit To The Hanabanilla Falls"
35. The Legendary "Trinidad"
36. As I Remember Antonio Aceo
37. "La Trocha From Incoro A Moron"
38. A Visit To "La de Majagua"
39. Climbing The "Pico Turquino"
40. A Visit To The Santuary Of "Our Lady de la Caridad"
41. "Bibijagu", The Black Sand Beach
42. How We Celebrate "La Noche Buena"
43. A Week-end In Varadero, The Most Beautiful Beach In The World
44. How I Feel About Having My Date Chaperoned
45. How Cubans Have Helped The City Of Miami Develop

46. "El Guateque
47. "La Tutelar", Religious Festivities In Guanabacoa, Havana
48. "Cabildos In Regla"
49. Fiesta de "La Caridad"
50. A Cock Fight In Cuba
51. Afro-Cuban Folklore
52. Oral Traditions In Afro-Cuban Folklore
53. Oral Tradition In Spanish Folklore
54. Famous Musicians Of Cuba
55. "Las Comparas"
56. "Los Carnavales"
57. "El Santero"
58. "El Bembe"
59. "Los Quince"
60. Cafe Con Leche Is Not Coffee With Cream
61. I Can't Speak As Clearly, In English, As My Teacher
62. The First Time That I Saw A Department Store In The United States
63. Before I Came To Miami, I Was A Refugee In Another Country
64. My Father's Career In Cuba Was --------But Now He Does----------
65. My Friends That I Left Behind In Cuba
66. My Relatives That I Left Behind In Cuba
67. The Beautiful "Bohios"
68. I Like To Listen To WQBA
69. I Like To Listen To The American Television, It Is Different From Ours
70. Fiestas In Cuba Are Quite Unusual
71. I Like To Read The "Ismalillo"

72. The Quiet Cuban Revolution of 1980
73. The Cuban Revolution Of 1895
74. Why Did The First Refugee In Cuba Go To Peru
75. My Grandad Remembers Batista
76. I Remember Castro's First Years Of Leadership
77. What It Means To Be An Exile In The United States Of America
78. Why Is Jose Marti Considered A Patriot In This Country Of Cuba
79. Did Jose Marti Ever Live In Key West, Florida? If So, Is He A Part Of Their History?
80. A Comparative Analysis Of The Lives Of Jose Marti And Abraham Lincoln
81. What Jose Marti Means To Me And How His Life Has Influenced Mine
82. My Grandparents Told Me About The Bay Of Pigs
83. Sports Helped To Ease The International Tension Between Cuba And The Other Countries Of The World
84. Why Did Over One Hundred And Twelve Thousand Cubans Leave Cuba In The Months Of April, May, And June Of 1980
85. Do You Think That Convicts Were Released From Cuban Jails And Sent To America?
86. Do You Think That Political Spies Were Sent Among The Refugees To America
87. Cuba: An Island To Remember
88. Has The Socialistic Government Of Cuba Failed? If So, Why?
89. Has The Socialistic Government Of Cuba Been A Total Success?, Why?
90. What Are The Major Political Differences Between Cuba And America?
91. The Fidel Castro Of The Late '60s
92. The Political Life Of Carlos Juan Finlay
93. History Remembers Fernando Ortiz

94. Famous Poets In Cuba
95. Famous Artists In Cuba
96. Famous Cartoonists Of Cuba
97. The Schools Of Cuba, And The Educational System
98. Kindergartens In Cuba
99. University Life In Cuba
100. The National Holidays In Cuba
101. Why I Want To Cling To My Culture From Cuba
102. What Aspects Of My Cuban Heritage Do I Want To Transmit To My Children
103. What Aspects Of My Cuban Heritage Would I Like To Forget
104. Why I Prefer To Speak "Spanglish"
105. Will I Ever Return To Cuban To Live, If Castro Leaves
106. Should The Fishermen Who Went To Cuba To Bring Back Familes Be Jailes?
107. Shoud Cuban Refugees Be Given Political Assylum In This Country?
107. How Reading Was Taught In Cuban Schools
108. How Mathematics Was Taught In Cuban Schools
109. Life In This Country Is Different From What t Was In Cuba
110. An Autobiographical Sketch Of My Life Before I Left The Island Of Cuba
111. Why Won't My Grandparents Speak English More, They Know It
112. I Want To Be A Cuban Border Patrolman
113. How To Cook Black Beans And Rice
114. How To Cook Plantins
115. The Cuban Seal:What It Means To Me
116. Twelve Historical Sites That Are Of Historical Significance To Me
117. Why Are There So Many Martas In The Cuban Families

118. The Ordeal Of A Refugee's Flight
119. I Used To Read The Newspaper, Granma, When I Grew Up In Cuba
120. Everyone Who Sought Asylum In The Peru vian Embassy Were Called Criminals
121. All Criminals (lumpens) Were Granted Granted Visas And Assylum
122. I Remember My Family's Tribulation In The Peruvian Embassay-Havana, Cuba
123. Cuban's Mass Exodus Is A Reflection Of The Island's Serious Problems
124. The Night That Dade County Opened The Orange Bowl To Refugees
125. How Effective Was The Bucket Brigade In The Orange Bowl?
126. What Is The Limit That The United States Can Set For Refugees?
127. The Four Hour Bus Ride From Key West To Miami, Florida
128. Will The Cubans Continue To Be Blind To Color Of Skin In This Country?
129. When They Ran Out Of Shelter Space For My Family And Friends
130. Why The Sponsors Changed Their Minds About Accepting Some Of The Refugees
131. The Pressure On Local I R S Authorities Was Tremendous
132. Collecting Food And Clohes On S. W. 27th Ave and 7th Street
133. The Pick Of South Davde's Cuban Crops
134. Are The Names Of Malangas, Calabazas, and Chayotes familiar to you?
135. Root Crops That Were Tranplanted From Cuba Thrive Here
136. How To Grow And Grade Boniatos
137. How To Cook Boninatos: A Type Of Sweet Potatoe
138. Growing Cuban Crops In South Dade
139. Cutting And Planing Malanga Roots For Harvest
140. Yucca: One Of The Staple Foods Of The Cuban Family's Diet
141. Dasheens, Look Like Elephant Ears, But Are Used As Food
142. Malanga Can Be Used For Medicinal Purposes
143. The Calabaza Is An Excellent Substitute For Pumpkins

144. Why Does The Florida State Department Of Agriculture Classify Boniato, Malanga, Dasheen, Calabaza, Cassava, and Chayote As "Sub-Tropical Vegetables?

145. Cuban Food Provides The Refugees And Other Cubans With A Culinary Link To The Days Before Fidel Castro

146. The Refugee Act Of 1980

147. How My Family Spent Their First American Check Received As Refugees

148. How We Learned To Know And Use The American Currency

149. Equating The American Currency With Cuban Currency

150. How The Comprehensive Employment Training Program Helped Me To Develop The Skills That I Needed To Live And Work In This Country

151. Refugees Who Found Respite In Local Churches In Dade County

152. Finding A Job In A New Country

153. I Voulunteered My Services During The Flotilla Boatlift

154. Why Some Americans Protested The Acceptance Of Refugees

155. How Can I Overcome My Feeling Of Statements Like "Give The City Of Miami Back To America?

156. Learning To Know And Appreciate Peoples Of Other Cultures That I Will Have As My Neighbors And Classmates

157. When Castro Suspended The Airlift

158. Why Castro Disliked The Universal New Coverage That The Media Provided During The Recent Exodus From The Island

159. Why Do The Majority Of Cubans Return To Miami After They Are Relocated In Other Parts Of The United States?

160. What Happened To My Family That Was Sent To Spain?

161. Visits To Cubans By Exiles Encouraged Anti-Government Feelings Among Cuban Youths

162. Did Any Of Our New Refugees Come Directly From "Combiando del Este"?

163. What Do You Feel Should Be The Punishment For Castro Agents Who Infiltrated The Ships And Boats Of The Arriving Refugees In This Country?

164. I Listen To Radio Havana On My Short Wave Radio Because I Want To------

165. Background Knowledge About The Countries That Volunteered To Accept The Cuban Refugees

166. Why Did The Majority Of The Refugees Want To Come To The United States To Live?

167. Port Mariel Has Made Its Name In Both The Cuban And The American History: Describe It

168. When The United States Absorbed Hundreds Of Thousands Of Cubans During The Mid-1960s

169. The President Of The United States' Emergency Parole Power: How Did It Influence The Failure Or Success Of The Flotilla Boatlift?

170. What Is The Role Of The United States Immigration And Naturalization Service?

171. When We Reach The Limits Of 18,000 Refugees, As Set By The Refugee Act Of 1980, What Will Happen Next?

172. Cubans Flee Mob Inot United States Mission In Havana

173. When The High Seas And Rough Winds Ripped The Flotillas

174. We Cubans Will Never Forget The Hospitality Of The American People

175. We Cubans Will Never Forget The American Police And National Guards
176. Why I Enjoyed The Last May Day Ceremony (Celebration) That I Attended In Cuba
177. Twenty One Years Of Castro Regime
178. When My Family First Arrived At Eglin Air Force Base In Northern, Fla.
179. Exports To Cuba From Other Communistic Countries
180. Exports To Cuba From Canada
181. Exports From Cuba To Other Countries In The World
182. Why Did Canada Develop Such A Strong Trade And Diplomat Tie With Cuba?
183. Canadian Toursist In The Island Of Cuba
184. Will The Refugees Who Went To Canada Affect The Cuban-Canadian Association's Relationahip?
185. What Does The Canadian Entrepreneurs And The Castro's Marxist Technocrats Have In Common That Causes Them To Work So Well Together?
186. What Causes The Fire Bombing Of The Large Cuban Trade Mission Headquarters In Montreal During The Year Of 1972
187. Castro's African Millitary Adventures
188. My Grandfather Knew Castro As A Young Boy
189. What Skills Should I Master In Order To Rebuild Cuba, If I Should Return?
190. Will The Cubans Take Over The American Jobs?
191. Should Cubans Be Required To Speak English Before Working In This Country?
192. Should Americans Be Forced To Compete For Bi-lingual Jobs In This Country?
193. Flight From Cuba: Castro's Loss Is U. S. Gain
194. The United States Was The Land Of Opportunity For My Grandparents
195. Retaining Old Ties
196. Profile Of The Cuban Refugees
197. The United States Cuban Refugee Program

198. The Cuban Refugee Program: A Facility Of The U. S. Dept. Of Health, Education, And Welfare
199. Cuban Refugees With Skills And Abilities Are Excellent Investments
200. The Cuban Refugee Program Of 1961 Is Now A Success Story; Will The Same Be True Of The 1980 Program? If Not, What Is The Difference?
201. Political Parties In Cuba Today
202. Political Divisions Of Cuba
203. Political Provinves Of Cuba
204. The Process Of Naturalization And Assimilation In America
205. The Story Behind The Cuban National Anthem
206. The Story Behind The Constitution of 1941 In Cuba
207. The Biography of Antonio Maceo Grajales
208. The Biography of Carlos Manuel de Cespedes
209. The Childhood Life Of Maximo Gomez Baez
210. The Literary Works Of Jose Maria Heredia
211. The Literary Works Of Julian del Casal
212. The Literary Works Of Cintio Vitier
213. The Literary Works Of Fayad Jamis
214. The Literary Works Of Pablo Armando Fernandez
215. The Literary Works Of Gertrudis Gomez de Avellandeda
216. The Literary Works Of Guillermo Cabrera Infante
217. The Literary Works Of Severo Sarduy
218. The Literary Works Of Alejo Carpentier
219. The Contributions Of Felix Varela To The Educational System Of Cuba
220. Jose de la Luz Caballero And The Schools Of Cuba
221. Jose Antonia Saco: An Outstanding Cuban Educator

222. Yoruba Legends In Cuba

223. Lucumi (Yoruba) Liturgical Music In Cuba

224. Cuban Riddles/ Adivinazax Poeticas

225. Introduction To The Inheritance Of Cuba

226. Fernando Ortiz Fernandez: His Contribution To The Afro-Cuban Culture

227. Ogun Traps Orumbila

228. The Distribution Of The Orishas' Powers

229. The Tropical Countryside Of Cuba

230. The Light On Cayo Hueso

231. The Milky Way Constellation Over Cuba

232. The Hospitality Of Cubans: A Strong Force In Their Culture

233. Desi Arnez: A Product Of Cuban's Culture

234. The Cuban Language

235. The John F. Kennedy Torch Of Freedom

236. The Bay Of Pigs

237. Emaculate Caridad Shrine

238. Jose Marti Boulevard

239. The Statue Of Ernesto Lecuona

240. Diario de Las Americas Newspaper

241. The Three Kings Of Eppilang (Las Reyes Magos)

242. The Statue Of Santa Barbara Virgin

242. I Will Teach You How To Dance The Rhumba

243. Singing"Pregons" On The Streets Of Cuba

244. The Lecuona Cuban Boys

245. The Havana Philarmonic Orchestra

246. The Fernando , Albuerne Male Singers

247. The Versatility Of Simon Moises

248. I Will Teach You How To Dance The Cha, Cha, Cha

249. I Will Teach You How To Do The Congo

250. Religions Of Cuba

251. When Columbus Discovered Cuba

252. The Tainos And The Siboneye Indians Of Cuba

253. The Mulatos Of Cuba

254. How To Make A Bongo

255. How To Make Maracas

256. The Influence Of The African Inhabitants On The Music Of Cuba

257. How To Cook Flan

258. How To Cook Sopa de Ajo

259. How To Cook Sopa de Fabado

260. How To Cook Caldo Gallego

261. How To Cook Sopade Frijoles Negros

262. How To Cook Yuca

263. How To Cook Malanga

264. How Cubans Observe "Semana de la Ispandid"

265. Alpha 66 (Cuban Political Association

266. The Little Havana Activity Center

267. The Bacardi Art Gallery

268. The Three Kings Parade

269. The Latin Chamber Of Commerce

270. The Cuban Museum Of Arts And Culture

271. Jose Marti's Birthday: January 28

272. Catholicism In The Island Of Cuba

273. The Garden Of America: Plot # 7
274. The Ernesto Lecuona Monument
275. How To Cook Moros y Cristianos
276. How To Cook Paella
277. How To Prepare Picadillo For Cooking
278. How To Cook Ajiaco
279. How To Cook Arroz Con Leche
280. How To Cook Natilla
281. How To Cook Boniatillo
282. How To Cook Majaret
283. How To Cook Fritas
284. How To Prepare Bunuelo
285. An Evening Stroll On Calle Ocho
286. How To Make Hand Made Cigars: An Old Cuban Custom
287. Senior Citizens Playing Domino In Little Havana
288. Musical Instruments That Are Used To Play Cuban Music
289. Reviving Old Cuban Traditions In Dade County, Florida
290. That Special Dinner On Nochebuena (Christmas Eve)
291. Nativity Scenes: An Old Cuban Tradition
292. Gifts That I Received From The Three Kings Of Epiphany
293. Famous Poems Of Jose Marti
294. Famous Stories Of Jose Marti
295. Famous Sayings Of Jose Marti
296. The Trickle That Turned Into A Flood
297. Tent City
298. The Spanish International Network

299. My Language Is "Spanglish", A Mixture Of English And Spanish

300. How My Grandparents Served As Human Resources For Cuban Literature, In My Language Arts Class